

Appl. No. : 10/639,940
Filed : August 13, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 had previously been pending. By this amendment, Claims 8-10 and 18-20 have been cancelled. Therefore, Claims 1-7 and 11-17 remain pending.

In the February 21, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-9 and 13-20 over the cited art. The Examiner objected to Claims 10-12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that Claims 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In order to expedite allowance of the present application, and without prejudice, Claim 1 has been amended to include elements of objected to Claim 10 and intervening claims Claims 8-9. Claims 8-10 have been cancelled. Likewise, Claim 12, which depended from Claim 1, has been rewritten in independent form, including the elements of Claim 1. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 and Claims 13-17, which respectively depend from and further define Claims 1 and 12 are likewise patentably distinct over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that Claims 1-7 and 11-17 be allowed.

If there is any further impediment to the allowance of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney of record at (310) 407-3461 or at the number set forth below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 25, 2007

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